

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows:

~~AGENT METHOD~~ FOR PROPHYLAXIS AND TREATMENT OF DIABETIC
COMPLICATIONS WITH 4[α -HYDROXY-2-METHYL-5-(1-
IMIDAZOLYL)BENZYL]-3,5-DIMETHYLBENZOIC ACID AND DERIVATIVES

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 2 on page 1 as follows:

This is a continuation of Serial No. 10/354,136, filed January 30, 2003, now abandoned,
which is a continuation of Serial No. 10/080,660 filed February 25, 2002, now abandoned
which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/850,000, filed May 8, 2001, now abandoned,
which is a divisional of Serial No. 09/498,481, filed February 4, 2000, now U.S. Patent
No. 6,258,834, which is a divisional of Serial No. 09/091,993, filed June 26, 1998, now
U.S. Patent No. 6,060,496, which is a 371 of PCT/JP96/03776, filed December 24, 1996.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 1 as follows:

The discovery of insulin and its clinical application resulted in drastic progress in the treatment of diabetes. Life sustention of the patients with diabetes -- which had been a deadly disease until then -- was strikingly improved. However, the therapy of for chronic complications of diabetes has become a new problem.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 19 on page 1 as follows:

The therapy of for diabetes aims at prevention of such chronic complications, and practically from a practical standpoint consists of a further control of blood glucose and a

direct therapy of complications. The major chronic complications of diabetes are known to be neuropathy, nephropathy, ophthalmopathy, arteriosclerosis and the like (David M. Davi et al., N. Engl. J. Med., 328, p. 1676-1685 (1993)).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 on page 2 as follows:

On the other hand, Japanese Patent Examined Publication No. 41143/1993 discloses 4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid having pharmacological activities such as strong TXA2 biosynthesis inhibitory activity, platelet aggregation inhibitory action, vasodilating action and the like, which is useful for the prophylaxis and treatment of thrombosis, cerebral hemorrhage, myocardial infarction, acute cardiac death, angina pectoris, hypertension, asthma, ~~nephritis~~ nephritis and the like, an optically active compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. Nevertheless, it is not known that these compounds act as agents for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic complications.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 12 on page 5 as follows:

21) Use of (S)-(-)-4-[α -hydroxy-2-methyl-5-(1-imidazolyl)benzyl]-3,5-dimethylbenzoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the production of a medicament ~~for the production of a medicament~~ for the prophylaxis and treatment of diabetic complications.